

REMARKS

The Office Action has requested restriction to one of Group I (claims 1-6), Group II (claim 7), Group III (claims 8-11), Group IV (claims 12-16), Group V (claims 17-18), and Group VI (claims 19-20).

It is believed that the prior art search for the fuel cell of Group IV (claims 12-16) will necessarily require a search of the fuel cell electrode art and the electrolyte membrane art. Therefore, search and examination of Group I (claims 1-6), Group III (claims 8-11), and Group IV (claims 12-16) can be made without serious burden. Under these circumstances, these claims should be examined on the merits, even though they may be arguably directed at distinct or independent inventions (MPEP § 803). Thus, the restriction requirement with respect to claims 1-6, 8-11 and 12-16 is traversed.

In the event the restriction is maintained for Group I (claims 1-6), Group III (claims 8-11), and Group IV (claims 12-16), the Applicant hereby elects Group IV (claims 12-16) for further examination.

No fees are believed to be needed for this response. If fees are needed, please charge them to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Dated: October 27, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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